

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CPR-01 L-03 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 /054 W
-----280133Z 020687 /75
R 280007Z APR 77
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3339
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 1269

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, UR
SUBJECT: VISIT BY YURY FOKINE (USSR) TO DISCUSS SOVIET
INTEREST IN ACQUIRING REAL PROPERTY IN NEW YORK

REF: USUN 1237

SUMMARY. FOKINE (SMUN EE&MP) CALLED TO REQUEST US SUPPORT FOR
FUTURE SOVIET REALY PROPERTY PURCHASES. HE SAID RIVERDALE
PROPERTY HAD BEEN SOLD TO OTHER PARTY AND SOVIETS WERE NO LONGER
INTERESTED IN VALERIA ESTATE PROPERTY. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN
OVER SECURITY DURING MAY DAY PERIOD.

1. FOKINE CALLED ON AMB LEONARD MORNING OF APRIL 27, 1977,
AT FOKINE'S REQUEST, TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE ARISEN
IN CONNECTION WITH SOVIET INTEREST IN PURCHASING VALERIA
ESTATE AND PROPERTY IN RIVERDALE. FOKINE BEGAN DISCUSSION
BY REFERENCE TO SMUN NOTE VERBALE ON SUBJECT WHICH HAD BEEN
DELIVERED TO USUN ON APRIL 26TH. TEXT OF NOTE IS AS FOLLOWS:
QUOTE THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST
REPUBLICS TO THE UNITED NATIONS PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE
MISSION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AND, WITH REGARD TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S STATEMENTS
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TO THE U.S.S.R. EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, DATED JANUARY
7 AND 17, 1977, IN THOSE PARTS IN WHICH SAID STATEMENTS MAY
CONCERN THE U.S.S.R. MISSION, IT CONSIDERS IT NECESSARY TO STATE
THE FOLLOWING.

1. IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT THE U.S.S.R. MISSION TO THE U.N. IS
ACCREDITED TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND NOT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT,
WITH ALL JURIDICAL CONSEQUENCES ENSURING FROM THIS. OF COURSE,

THE U.S.S.R. MISSION TO THE U.N. HAS THE SAME PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES AS THE MISSIONS OF OTHER U.N. MEMBER-STATES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH CERTAIN DOCUMENTS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW; AND WITH RESPECT TO THE MISSION, AT THE SAME CONDITIONS AS FOR ALL OTHER U.N. MISSIONS, ARE IN FORCE CERTAIN OBLIGATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW ASSUMED BY THE U.S. AS THE RECEIVING COUNTRY. THE U.S.S.R. MISSION PROCEEDS FROM THIS POSITION OF PRINCIPLE WHEN RESOLVING PRACTICAL QUESTIONS CONNECTED WITH ITS FUNCTIONS AS A MISSION TO THE U.N.

2. CONCERNING THE QUESTION OF THE "VALERIYA" PLOT IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y. AND PLOT NO. 5445 ON FIEDSTONE ROAD IN RIVERDALE (THE BRONX), MENTIONED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S COMMUNICATION, THE ACTUAL STATE OF AFFAIRS IS DIFFERENT FROM THAT DESCRIBED BY THE DEPARTMEN OF STATE. AS REGARDS THE "VALERIYA" PLOT, THE U.S.S.R. MISSION TO THE U.N. IN DUE COURSE, UNOFFICIALLY INFORMED THE U.S. MISSION TO THE U.N. OF ITS CONTACTS WITH THE PLOT'S OWNERS, WHICH WERE QUITE PRELIMINARY. WITH REGARD TO THE MISSION ALLEGEDLY SIGNING A PURCHASE-SALE CONTRACT FOR PLOT NO. 5445 IN RIVERDALE, THE U.S.S.R MISSION THINKS THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE OBVIOUSLY WAS MISLED BY INFOMRATION WHICH DID NOT CORRESPOND TO REALITY.

3. THE U.S.S.R MISSION TO THE U.N. WOULD LIKE TO CONFIRM THAT IN THE SPIRIT OF COURTESY AND RESPECT TOWARD THE AUTHORITIES OF THE HOST COUNTRY IT INTENDS, NOW AS BEFORE, TO INFORM AT THE APPROPRIATE STAGE OF U.S. AUTHORITIES OF ITS INTENTIONS REGARDING THE PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS WILL NOT PREJUDICE SAID PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF THE U.S.S.R.MISSION TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE U.N. FOR ITS PART, THE U.S.S.R. MISSION PROCEEDS FROM THE UNDERSTANDING THAT IT HAS THE RIGHT TO COUNT ON THE ASSISTANCE OF THESE AUTHORITIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 21 OF THE 1961 VIENNA CONVENTION ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, AND THE 1946 CONVENTION ON PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF THE U.N. IN RESOLVING QUESTIONS CONNECTED WITH THE PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY, THE LEASE OF PREMISES OR EXECUTION OF CONSTRUCTION, AND OTHER QUESTIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENSURING NECESSARY CONDITIONS FOR ITS NORMAL FUNCTIONS.

THE U.S.S.R. MISSION TO THE U.N. TAKES THIS OCCASION TO RENEW TO THE U.S. MISSION TO THE U.N. THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

NEW YORK, APRIL 22, 1977 QUOTE

HE REFERRED IN PARTICULAR TO PARAGRAPH 3 OF NOTE, AND SAID SMUN INTENDED TO INFORM US AUTHORITIES AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME OF FUTURE SOVIET INTENTIONS REGARDING PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT USUN WOULD GIVE ITS FULL SUPPORT, HELP AND ASSISTANCE.

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CPR-01 L-03 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 /054 W
-----280134Z 020861 /75

R 280007Z APR 77
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3340
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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2. AMB LEONARD POINTED OUT THAT IN THIS SITUATION, PERSONNEL INVOLVED WERE NOT ONLY FROM SMUN, BUT FROM VARIOUS OTHER SOVIET ORGANIZATIONS. CONSEQUENTLY, IT WAS NECESSARY THAT MATTER BE HANDLED THROUGH DEPT OF STATE. HE STATED THAT OTHER GOVERNMENTS DID SAME THING.

3. FOKINE SAID SMUN UNDERSTOOD LIMITATIONS INVOLVED, BUT FELT IT WAS PROPER FOR SMUN TO APPROACH USUN. TURNING AWAY FROM SMUN NOTE, FOKINE STATED HE WAS GLAD CERTAIN IRRITANTS WERE REMOVED DURING VISIT TO MOSCOW OF SECRETARY VANCE. HE WAS PLEASED CONSTRUCTION MATTERS WERE SETTLED IN MOSCOW. THIS HE SAID WOULD HELP LIVING CONDITIONS OF AMERICAN DIPLOMATS IN MOSCOW. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THIS SPIRIT WOULD BE CONTINUED IN NEW YORK, MOSCOW, KIEV, ETC. AMB LEONARD EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THIS IMPROVEMENT WOULD CONTINUE.

4. FOKINE THEN TURNED TO SECURITY PROBLEMS FACING SOVIET COMMUNITY IN NEW YORK. HE STATED THAT SINCE JANUARY 1, 1977, THERE HAD BEEN 69 DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST SMUN AND OTHER SOVIET ORGANIZATIONS IN NEW YORK. ONE EVENT, WHICH FOKINE BELIEVED COULD RESULT IN HOSTILE ACTS AGAINST SOVIETS IN NEW YORK WAS ANTI-SOVIET DEMONSTRATION SCHEDULED FOR MAY 1ST IN FOLEY SQUARE. IT WAS EXPECTED THAT 100,000
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PEOPLE WOULD GATHER. MAYOR BEAME'S BLESSING, HE SAID, WAS NOT PROPER AND DID NOT HELP PURSUIT OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND USSR.

5. FOKINE SAID SOVIETS WERE PLANNING LARGE AFFAIR IN HONOR OF MAY DAY ON APRIL 30TH AT SOVIET RESIDENCE IN OYSTER BAY. 700-800 PEOPLE WILL BE INVITED, AND WILL PARTICIPATE IN CELEBRATION INCLUDING SPORTS EVENTS. HE ADVISED THAT SOVIETS WERE GREATLY CONCERNED OVER SECURITY, AND WOULD CONTACT LOCAL POLICE FOR ASSISTANCE. AMB LEONARD ASSURED FOKINE THAT USUN WOULD SEE TO IT THAT ALL POSSIBLE SECURITY WAS PROVIDED.

6. RETURNING TO SUBJECT OF SOVIET PROPERTY ACQUISITION, AMB LEONARD MADE IT CLEAR THAT SOVIETS SHOULD NOT IN ANY WAY FEEL ENCOURAGED REGARDING PURCHASE OF VALERIA ESTATE OR PROPERTY IN RIVERDALE. FOKINE STATED PROPERTY IN RIVERDALE WAS INTENDED FOR USE AS A KINDERGARTEN. HE POINTED OUT THERE ARE ABOUT 200 SMALL CHILDREN WHO NEED SPACE. HE EXPRESSED REGRET OVER TONE OF SECOND DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATION, WHICH HE SAID WAS AN UNPLEASANT SURPRISE, AND WHICH WAS ALSO BLUNT AND UNCOMPROMISING.

7. FOKINE STATED THAT LOT IN RIVERDALE HAD BEEN SOLD TO ANOTHER OWNER. FURTHER, THAT SOVIETS DID NOT INTEND TO DO ANYTHING FURTHER REGARDING VALERIA ESTATES. THIS MEETING, FOKINE SAID, WAS ASKED FOR WITH THE IDEA OF PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, REAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977USUNN01269
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770147-1072
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977047/aaaaafnu.tel
Line Count: 200
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: d1bc2fa7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 USUN NEW YORK 1237
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2843249
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT BY YURY FOKINE (USSR) TO DISCUSS SOVIET INTEREST IN ACQUIRING REAL PROPERTY IN NEW YORK
TAGS: PFOR, UR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d1bc2fa7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009